

RESOLUTION NO. _____, SERIES 2008

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE REVEREND LOUIS H. COLEMAN, JR., MINISTER AND ADVOCATE FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.

Sponsored By: Councilwomen Mary C. Woolridge and Judy Green

WHEREAS, the Rev. Louis H. Coleman, Jr. grew up attending segregated schools but became an iconic giant among human beings, fearlessly standing for justice, fairness and human dignity for all people in Jefferson County; and,

WHEREAS, Louis Coleman was one of Louisville's most well-known links to the civil-rights movement, working tirelessly with nationally recognized leaders Reverend Jesse Jackson, Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth and comedian-activist Dick Gregory for positive change; and,

WHEREAS, Louis Coleman lead numerous protests against injustices, regularly conducted gun buybacks to reduce street violence; and patrolled streets, trying to get both drug users and pushers to adopt a new way of life; and,

WHEREAS, Louis Coleman lead protests targeting the PGA Championship of 1996 held at Valhalla Golf Club which resulted in changes that expanded the role of minorities in the sport all over the country; and,

WHEREAS, Louis Coleman's pledge to organize a boycott against Papa John's Pizza convinced the University of Louisville to hire more black subcontractors to work on the new football stadium named for the pizza company and to adopt minority-contracting goals for all future projects; and,

WHEREAS, Louis Coleman's incessant complaints about smokestack emissions in Rubbertown prompted state funding for air monitoring, which revealed excessive levels of chemicals in the air and prompted a stringent toxic-air control program throughout Jefferson County; and,

WHEREAS, Louis Coleman's life seemed to have been guided by an innate sense of fairness and justice, leading him (after graduating from Central High School, class of 1961) to obtain a masters degree in community development and a divinity degree from the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary; to serve as beloved pastor of the First Congregational Methodist Church in Louisville, Kentucky; to become synonymous with the Justice Resource Center in Louisville; all of which strengthened and empowered his advocacy for justice and equality for disenfranchised people wherever he encountered them; and,

WHEREAS, Reverend Louis Coleman was inducted into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame in 2000 for his contributions throughout the Commonwealth and,

WHEREAS, Rev. Louis H. Coleman, Jr. will be remembered and respected as a courageous activist for social, political, and economic change by thousands of people throughout Jefferson County and Kentucky, including, but not limited to: friends, colleagues, political, educational, economic and governmental entities; and even by those who philosophically disagreed with his mission; and,

WHEREAS, Rev. Louis H. Coleman, Jr. leaves to celebrate his home-going, his beloved wife, Etta Murphy Coleman; two daughters: Andrea Coleman White and Rachael Curry; four sons: Louis Odell Coleman, Don Murphy, Steven Murphy, and Mike Murphy; one sister, Ellen Beard; and 18 grandchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT (THE COUNCIL) AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I: The Rev. Louis H. Coleman, Jr. is hereby recognized by the Council as an outstanding human being; an advocate for the rights of people unable to speak for themselves in Louisville and Jefferson County, and throughout the Commonwealth; and the life and legacy of Rev. Louis H. Coleman, Jr. shall serve as a benchmark for the Council as it deliberates legislation to protect the civil and human rights of all of its citizens.

SECTION II. This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage and approval.

Kathleen J. Herron
Metro Council Clerk

Jim King
President of the Council

Jerry E. Abramson
Mayor

Approval Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Irv Maze
Jefferson County Attorney

BY: _____
G: Resolution,Rev LouisH.Coleman,Jr.ROC/acb07.07.08